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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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December 30, 2003

Mr. André K. Jackson
Examiner
Art Unit 2856
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

By Fax to: 703-308-7722

Re: Patent Application Serial No. 09/786,841
Request for Telephone Interview

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I would like to request a brief telephone interview with you. The purpose would be to discuss applicant's Amendment After Final Rejection that was filed on December 16, 2003.

Also, enclosed are a few minor corrections that the client wishes to make to pages 3 and 10 of the Amendment.

Please let me know if an interview would be acceptable and, if so, a date and time that would be convenient for you.

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Thank you.

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Sincerely,



Otho B. Ross

Encls.

communication system, the first path is by no means wireless as required by amended claim 1 of the present invention. Indeed, all types of activation of the generator 5 require a distortion of the wall of the vessel containing the oil. In the preferred embodiment this is done by a mechanical pulse generator 8 via a rod triggering a piezoelectric crystal of the generator 5. Page 2, lines 1-29 describe other ways of activation but in all applications mechanical shocks are applied to the wall, ~~making the first path of the alleged two-way communication system wired.~~ X

yielding at least a physical connection for a tele. hindsight tampered 2-way communication

Finally, Andrejasich et al. US Patent 4,646,069 discloses a fluid detection system. The system clearly is a wired system using a cable 21. Moreover and especially with regard to claim 17 on the identification of the sensors, the system of US '069 is different from the system according to the invention. In US '069 the generated signal already contains a code of a sensor to which signal the already selected sensor responds. As stated in claim 17, however, a non-selective signal is generated while the sensor adds an identification signal to the response that can be recognized at the reading means.

In conclusion, amended claim 1 clarifies the two-way wireless communication system for the retrieval of data from the sensor. None of the citations presently known or any combination of them discloses or suggests such a communication system. Nor would a person of ordinary skill in the pertinent art be motivated to combine the references in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Wireless activation of the sensor and wireless retrieval of the information of the sensor improves the flexibility of the system as such and the object, e.g. a human being wearing a incontinence diaper.

Further, regarding dependent claims 4, 5 and 9, reference DE 40 30 284 does not disclose an LC circuit made of moisture sensitive material. Only moisture sensor FS is

Regarding claims 10 and 11, these claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by reference DE 40 30 284, either alone or in combination with Nishijima and/ or Roberts, because DE 40 30 284 only discloses two states, i.e. dry and wet.

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Three times amended) A system with at least one sensor for detecting the presence of moisture, comprising:

~~at least one electronic sensor having an inactive state and an activated state, said at least one sensor being arranged to detect the presence of moisture when in the activated state, said at least one sensor comprising a resonant circuit having a resonance frequency and being at least partly formed from a moisture sensitive material having an electrical resistance which increases when in contact with moisture, comprising:~~

a) transmitter-receiver means for generating an electromagnetic interrogation field comprising at least one frequency component corresponding to the resonance frequency of said resonant circuit and being structured and arranged relative to said at least one sensor such that the electromagnetic interrogation field generated by said transmitter-receiver means is wirelessly propagated;

b) said at least one sensor being arranged to be wirelessly activated by an said electromagnetic interrogation field when present in the electromagnetic interrogation field to generate a response to the electromagnetic interrogation field; and

~~at least one reading device for obtaining information from,~~

c) said transmitter-receiver means being structured and arranged relative to said at least one sensor such that said response of said at least one sensor about the presence of moisture, is wirelessly received by said at least one transmitter-receiver means and

d) a reading device comprising said transmitter-receiver device structured and arranged to generate an electromagnetic interrogation field and record the means for recording said response of said at least one sensor to the electromagnetic interrogation field to obtain information about the presence of moisture at said at least one sensor;

~~said transmitter-receiver device comprising at least one frequency component corresponding to the resonance frequency of said resonant circuit;~~

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